

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/542,973

Examiner

Jeff Piziali

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the "RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION" filed 11 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16 and 24-37(renumbered 1-30).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 April 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



13 December 2004

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-16 and 24-37 (renumbered as claims 1-30) are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention comprises telepresence system for allowing an operator to interact with a remote operating environment. The closest prior art, Diner et al. (US 5,182,641) discloses a telepresence system for allowing an operator [Fig. 1, 19] to interact with a remote operating environment [Fig. 1; 10'], the system comprising: one or more input devices [Fig. 1, 21, 24, and 25], the one or more input devices configured to produce raw data representative of operator commands [i.e. hand-controller coordinates]; an input conversion module configured to convert the raw data into a zone structure [i.e. telepresence device commands] representative of the operator commands in a telepresence-device format [via direct scaling]; one or more device modules corresponding to one or more telepresence devices [Fig. 1, 13'-17'], the one or more device modules for converting the zone structure into telepresence device commands specific to an associated one of the one or more telepresence devices, the zone structure being a format independent of any of the one or more telepresence devices, the telepresence device commands resulting from at least a portion of the operator commands; and a configuration module for associating a specific one of the one or more input devices corresponding to the zone structure with a specific one of the one or more telepresence devices which responds to the telepresence

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device commands resulting from the zone structure (see Column 4, Line 15 - Column 5, Line 37).

However, Diner does not explicitly disclose an input conversion module configured to convert the raw data into a zone structure representative of the operator commands in a telepresence-device independent format, the zone structure being a format independent of any one of the one or more input devices. This distinct telepresence-device independent zone structure formatting and conversion technique has been incorporated into all three independent claims, thereby rendering them allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeff Piziali whose telephone number is (703) 305-8382. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (6:30AM - 3PM).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (703) 305-4938. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



J.P.

13 December 2004



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600